



Satellite image with enhanced low cloud-top temperatures (degrees C) for 7:15 a.m. EDT (NOAA)

Agricultural Weather Highlights - Thursday - October 3, 2002

- ***In the West***, rain and snow showers continue across the ***Northwest and Intermountain West***, boosting topsoil moisture reserves for winter grains.
- ***On the Plains***, cool weather is slowing winter wheat development across the ***northern half of the region***, while beneficial showers continue from ***Kansas southward***.
- ***In the Corn Belt***, warm, dry weather in the ***Ohio Valley*** favors fieldwork, including summer crop harvesting and winter wheat planting, but cool, showery weather continues to slow fieldwork across the ***upper Midwest***.
- ***In the South***, Hurricane Lili is approaching the ***Louisiana coast*** with maximum sustained winds near 100 m.p.h. At 7 a.m. EDT, Lili was centered 70 miles south of ***New Iberia, Louisiana***, moving north-northwestward at 15 m.p.h. Gusty winds and heavy showers are spreading inland, halting fieldwork and causing additional lodging of ***southern Louisiana's*** sugarcane and adversely affecting unharvested summer crops, including cotton and rice, as far north as the ***Delta***.

Outlook: Hurricane Lili, forecast to make landfall later today along the ***central Louisiana coast***, will cause damage along and just east of its path due to a combination of high winds, battering waves, and a large storm surge. Lili is forecast to quickly weaken once inland, thus the remnants of Lili will produce largely beneficial showers from the ***Ohio Valley into the Northeast***. Meanwhile, a cold front will provide the focus for widespread showers across the ***central and southern Plains, upper Midwest, and Ohio Valley***, but rainfall will diminish as the front moves toward the ***East Coast***. During the weekend, the first widespread snow of the season may fall across the ***northern Plains***. The NWS 6-10 day outlook for October 8-12 calls for wetter-than-normal conditions in the ***southern Plains and upper Midwest***, while drier-than-normal conditions are expected along the ***West and East Coasts***. Temperatures are likely to be below-normal in the ***northern Rockies, northern Plains, Great Basin, and Southwest***, but above-normal temperatures are forecast for the ***eastern half of the nation***.

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